

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Arthur H. Sorey, III, Interim City Manager



Date: October 27, 2015

RE: APPROPRIATE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(LIHEAP)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor and City Council urge the Appropriations Committee of the United States House of Representatives and members of Congress to appropriate Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding of at least \$3.39 billion for the 2016 Fiscal Year Budget. The LIHEAP program is an essential resource for North Miami residents.

BACKGROUND

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is an essential resource for the community and for the most underserved populations, including the working poor, the disabled and the elderly living on low fixed income. This program is an exceptionally efficient and targeted program, with state block grants flowing to local agencies which provide short-term, mostly one-time assistance. The total funding for LIHEAP has declined by more than 30% in recent years and the number of households served fell from approximately 8.1 million to 6.7 million.

ATTACHMENT(s)

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, URGING
THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED
STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE LOW INCOME HOME
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) FUNDING
OF AT LEAST \$3.39 BILLION FOR THE 2016 FISCAL YEAR
BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND
ALL OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (“LIHEAP”) is an essential resource for our communities’ most underserved populations, including the working poor, the disabled and the elderly living on low fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP is an exceptionally efficient and targeted program, with state block grants flowing to local agencies which provide short-term, mostly one-time, assistance to help cover a portion of their heating costs in the winter and cooling costs in the summer; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP prevents low-income families from having to choose between paying to heat or cool their homes or purchasing necessary medications and food; and

WHEREAS, energy costs continue to place an enormous burden on the budgets of low-income households; and

WHEREAS, total funding for LIHEAP has declined by more than thirty (30) percent in recent years and the number of households served fell from approximately 8.1 million to 6.7 million; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of North Miami find that the LIHEAP program is an essential resource for North Miami residents and therefore urge the Appropriations Committee of the United States House of Representatives and members of Congress to appropriate LIHEAP funding of at least \$3.39 billion for the 2016 Fiscal Year Budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Mayor and City Council Recommendation. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby urge the Appropriations Committee of the United

States House of Representatives and members Congress to appropriate LIHEAP funding of at least \$3.39 billion for the 2016 Fiscal Year Budget.

Section 2. **Direction to the City Clerk.** The City Clerk is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives and all members of Congress of the United States.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a _____ vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2015.

DR. SMITH JOSEPH
MAYOR

ATTEST:

MICHAEL A. ETIENNE, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

ROLAND C. GALDOS, ESQ.
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN ALIX DESULME

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Vote:

Mayor Smith Joseph, D.O., Pharm. D.
Vice Mayor Carol Keys, Esq.
Councilman Scott Galvin
Councilman Philippe Bien-Aime
Councilman Alix Desulme

_____	(Yes)	_____	(No)
_____	(Yes)	_____	(No)
_____	(Yes)	_____	(No)
_____	(Yes)	_____	(No)
_____	(Yes)	_____	(No)